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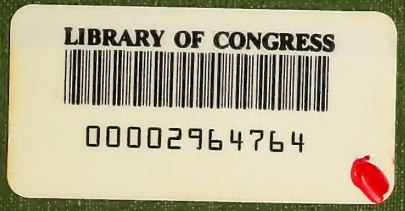

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THE OLD HOMESTEAD.

The Old Homestead

Illustrated by Louis K. Harlow

Boston, U.S.A.
L. Prang & Co.

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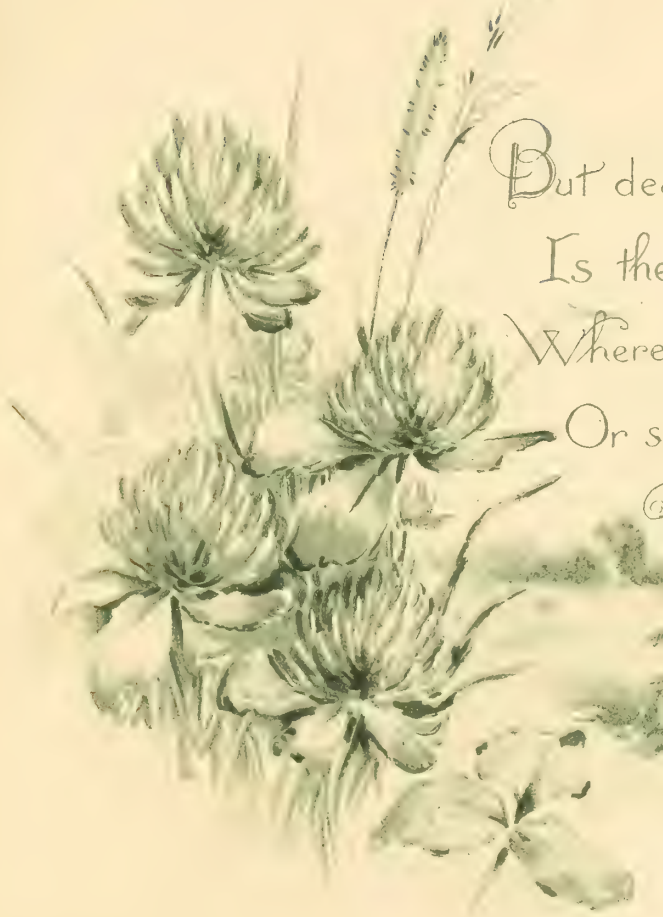
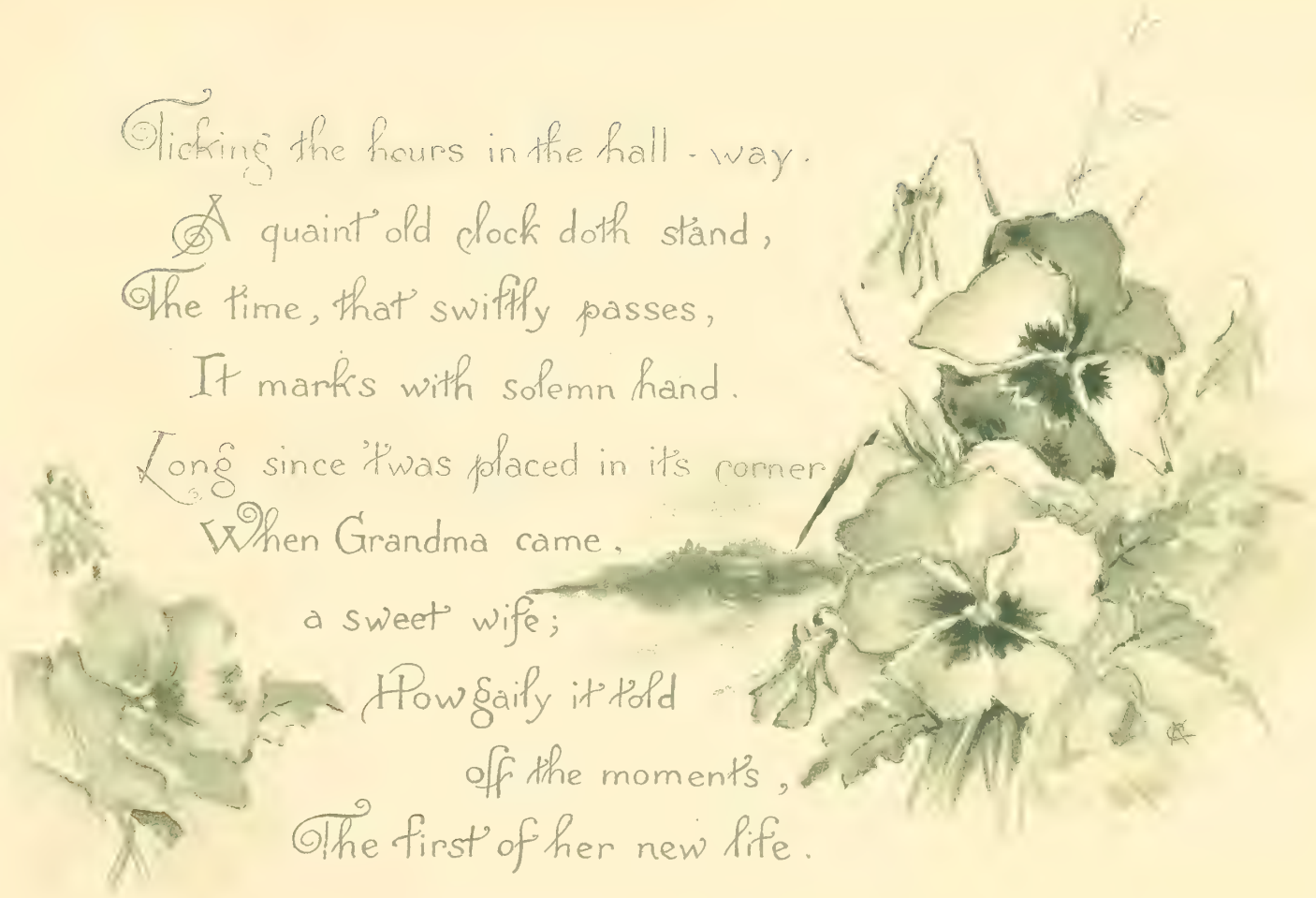
The Old House stands in the sunlight,
Whose beams are shining down
Upon its sloping roof tree,
And shingles gray and brown;
Beyond the lowland meadows
Clothed in spring's bright vivid green,
Is the blue of distant waters
Shining
with silver sheen.

The lilacs by the gateway
Toss their clusters in the breeze,
And the daisies, white and yellow,
Bloom beneath the old elm trees;
And farther on, the garden,
Of Grandpa's heart the pride,
Where peas and beans
and hollyhocks
Are growing side by side.



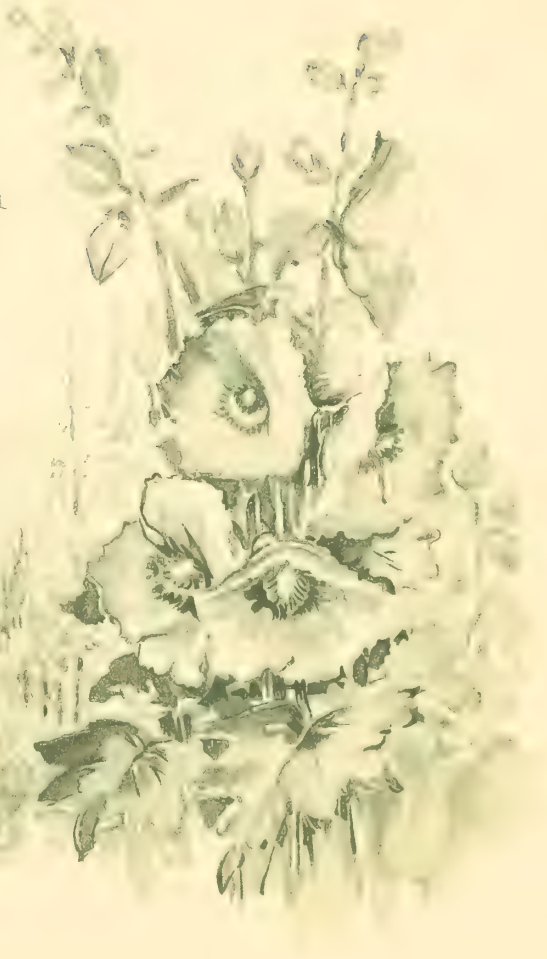
But dearest to the children
Is the big old country barn,
Where they played through days of summer rain,
Or sunshine's golden calm.
The floors are clean and empty
In this early month of May,
But soon they'll groan
beneath the wealth
Of summer's new-made hay.

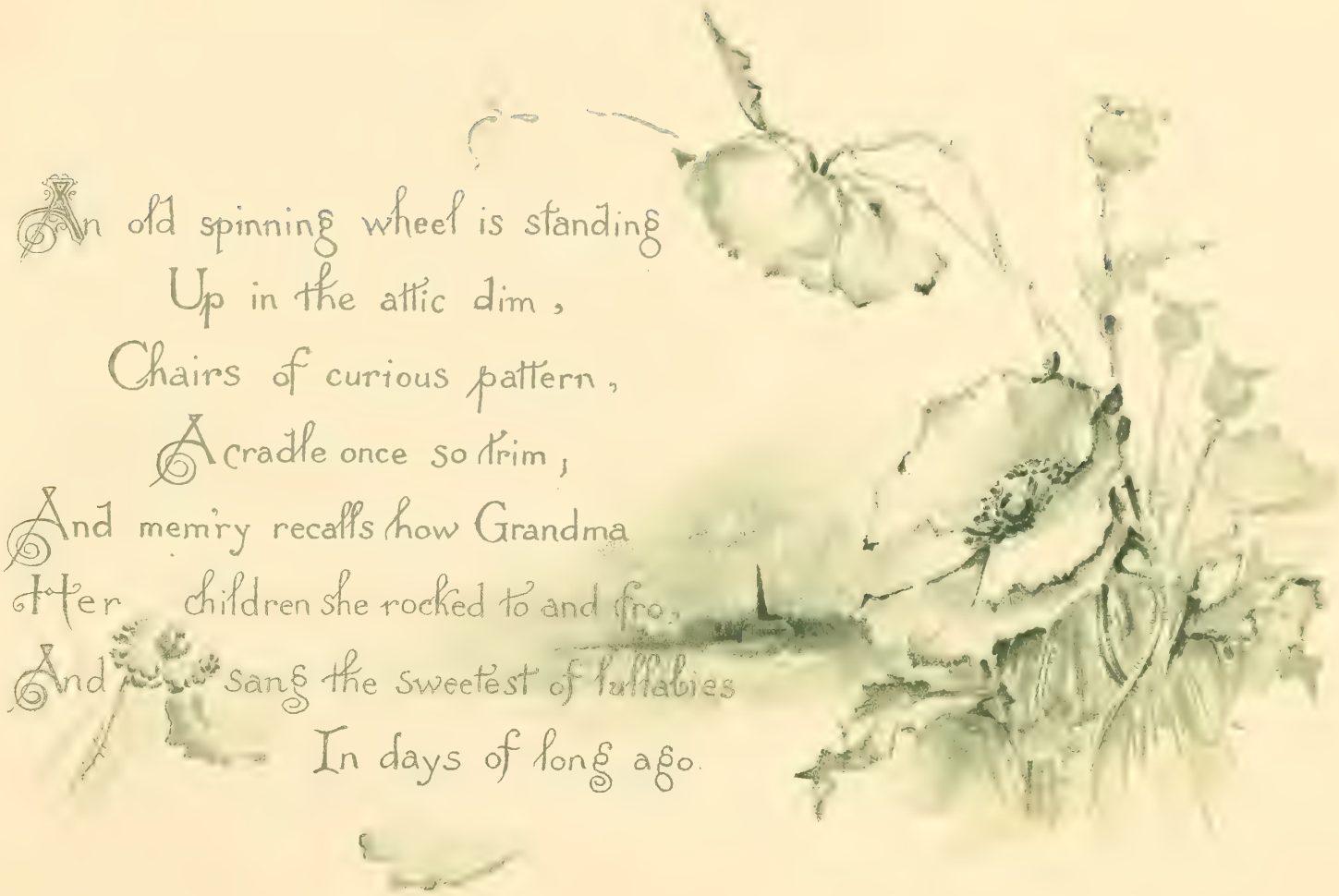
Ticking the hours in the hall-way.
A quaint old clock doth stand,
The time, that swiftly passes,
It marks with solemn hand.
Long since 'twas placed in its corner
When Grandma came,
a sweet wife;
How gaily it told
off the moments,
The first of her new life.



What delights did Grandma's kitchen
Afford to one and all,
With its strings of apples hanging
Beneath its rafters tall.

The shining and fresh scoured platters,
And the china of brilliant hue;
The treasures from
shelf and from cupboard,
So dear to childish view.





An old spinning wheel is standing
Up in the attic dim,
Chairs of curious pattern,
A cradle once so trim;
And memory recalls how Grandma
Her children she rocked to and fro,
And sang the sweetest of lullabies
In days of long ago.

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